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mind than belong to the great mass of readers, cannot be extensively popular; while there are many that cannot fail to commend themselves to all readers of taste and judgment. The volume breathes a pure, genial, and elevated moral tone, and abounds in wise thoughts and noble sentiments, expressed with a strength that “comes of strength and imparts strength.” We have observed a few blemishes, and a few passages which, we think, would be improved by retrenchment; but it would be invidious to particularize defects which the general correctness of the author’s taste warrants us in attributing to inadvertency, occasioned not improbably in no small part by the importunate calls of the printer. They will doubtless disappear in the second edition, which, as we learn, is already in press.

ART. XIV. — CRITICAL NOTICES.

1. — 1. *Bibliothèque Grecque, avec la Traduction Latine et les Index.* 66 vols. Grand in-8°, à deux colonnes. Paris: Firmin Didot Frères. 1856.
2. *Glossarium Mediæ et Infimæ Latinitatis*, conditum a CAROLO DUFRESNE domino DUCANGE, auctum a Monachis Ordinis S. Benedicti, cum Supplementis integris D. P. CARPENTIERI, et Additamentis ADELUNGII et aliorum, digessit G. A. L. HENSCHEL. 7 vols. 4°. (With the French Glossary.) Paris: Firmin Didot Frères.
3. *Thesaurus Græcæ Linguae*, ab HENRICO STEPHANO constructus. Post Editionem Anglicam novis Additamentis auctum, Ordineque alphabetico digestum, tertio ediderunt CAROLUS BENEDICTUS HASE, GULIELMUS et LUDOVICUS DINDORFF, secundum conspectum Academicæ Inscriptionum et humaniorum Litterarum, die 29 Maji, 1829, approbatum. To be completed in 60 numbers, small folio, 52 of which are now ready (to the letter Y). Paris: Firmin Didot Frères.

It is with feelings of just pride that the scholar now points to the late revised texts and editions of the classics, as a palpable proof that sound learning still lives and flourishes. However arduous may have been the labors of an Aldus or an Etienne, — however proud we should ever be of the monuments which they have raised to the glory of poets,

orators, and historians whom the world will never cease to admire,— we must not forget that there are still men whose literary labors and devotion to the advancement of learning are worthy of the best days of classical erudition in France and Germany. They do not ask, before printing a book, whether it will sell, but whether the interests of the republic of letters demand its publication. They are constantly on the alert for those precious fragments which now and then reward the indefatigable scholar for his nights of toil and study; and when a lost passage from a Diodorus or a Menander has been discovered among the dusty folios of the St. Marc or the Vatican, they spare neither time nor expense to acquire, expound, and publish it. So long as there shall be such men, the writers of antiquity will be upheld in the public estimation, and their incomparable merits preserved from oblivion.

The Didots, who, for upwards of one hundred and twenty-five years, have done so much for the promotion of letters and the art of printing, are not less celebrated for the beauty of the books they have published, than for scholarly attainments worthy of the task they have undertaken and the enviable reputation they have acquired. From Francis, the syndic of the Paris corporation of booksellers, born towards the end of the seventeenth century; Francis-Ambrose, his son, who greatly contributed to the improvement of the art of type-founding; Peter, whose fables will ever be so fresh and graceful; Firmin, “the most skilful and celebrated of modern printers”; and Ambrose-Firmin, his son, the learned translator of Thucydides, and a member of the French Institute,—a succession of truly beautiful editions of the classics, French, Latin, and Greek, has graced the literary world, and made the name of the Didots dear to all true lovers of art and literature. They still continue their labors, and are now publishing a new series of the Greek authors, to which we beg leave to call the attention of our readers.

The first work which we notice on the list contains a complete edition of Homer, with the fragments from the Cyclic Poets; then a collection from Hesiod to Panyasis,—the first-cousin of Herodotus, some say; the idyllic and didactic poets from Theocritus to Aratus,—the poet quoted by St. Paul; a reprint of the remarkable edition of Nicanor and Oppianus by that poor Lehrs who died so young; Ahren’s Sophocles, the Latin translation of which is very literal and readable; the fragments of Euripides and of eighty Grecian tragic writers; the remains of the Christian dramas (among which we notice the ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΠΑΣΧΩΝ of St. Gregory of Nazianzus); Dindorff’s Aristophanes; and one hundred and fifty newly published verses from Menander.

Among the historians, we have in this series Herodotus and the fragments from the ancient chronographers, otherwise almost inaccessible.

ble ; Thucydides, by the learned Haase ; a most complete edition of all that we possess of Diodorus Siculus, — not “ the most celebrated of the Greek historians,” as Justinus the Martyr and Eusebius call him, but certainly the most interesting after Herodotus ; the fragment from Photius concerning the history of the Jews, — exceedingly curious, and not sufficiently known ; Polybius, with the fragments discovered by Cardinal Angelo Mai ; Arrian and the remains of thirty-two of Alexander’s historians ; Plutarch, edited from a collation of fifty-one manuscripts ; and the fragments of the primitive historians, Hecataeus, Charon, &c., now collected for the first time.

Then we have Demosthenes, with new fragments ; Plato, by Professor Schneider ; and three volumes of Aristotle. Aristotle is to be completed in four volumes, and, when finished, this will be as good an edition as we can possibly obtain. More has been done for the great Peripatetic in the last twenty years than during the whole scholastic era. The Aristotelia of Professor Stahr, Ravaisson’s, Michelet’s, and Frank’s essays, the remarkable translation by Barthelemy St. Hilaire, and the texts of the Politics and the Ethics given by the Royal Printing-Press of Paris, have all been published within the last few years. And it is a great satisfaction, that the better we understand that philosopher, the more we admire him. It is not, to be sure, the blind admiration of the Middle Age, but a sincere and enlightened respect for principles enunciated by him, which, despite the severest criticisms, are and ever will be at the very foundation of several of the modern sciences.

After the Greek geographers, novelists, and epistolographers, we remark in the series Nonnos of Panopolis, — a very bombastic and uninteresting poet. When Simonides called on Count Marcellus, the editor and translator of the present edition, the first question asked by the learned “ ex-minister plenipotentiary ” was, whether he could not favor him with some few details concerning the life of the author of the Dionysiacs, inasmuch as, so far as he knew, there was a great scarcity of materials for a biographical sketch. Simonides coolly replied that he thought he could ; and a few days afterwards sent him an extract from a brand-new manuscript of the seventh or eighth century : *A Collection of homonymous poets and writers, by the most holy Lord Dionysios, by the grace of God Metropolitan of Lybia, Demetrius of Magnesia, &c., &c., collected from the writing of Demetrius, son of Meander, &c.,* and so on for a page folio or more. Unfortunately there was a mistake, a very great chronological mistake in it, and Count Marcellus thought it best not to buy the manuscript. The Academy of Berlin, which it seems is not so particular about such matters, purchased it, and now poor Simonides of Stagyra is in jail.

Our limited space does not permit us to speak of all the other works published in the *Bibliothèque*; we can only mention the Septuagint and the New Testament by Tischendorf. We cannot well dismiss this subject, however, without adverting to two most important publications, which should find their way into every scholar's library. One is the *Glossarium Mediæ et Infimæ Latinitatis*, by Ducange, — a new edition, much preferable to that of the Benedictines, which is becoming quite rare and expensive; and the other, the *Thesaurus Græcæ Linguae* of Stephanus.

Not many years have elapsed since a well-known Grecian (the English editor of Callimachus) remarked, that no one could pretend to dispute Stephanus's claim to the rank of the most learned of printers (which is certainly no mean compliment, when we think of the Aldi and Elzevirs), and "his just celebrity for an almost vernacular intimacy with the Greek language, in which he was nearly unrivalled." The opinion of scholars, notwithstanding the great progress lately made in a critical knowledge of the Greek tongue, is still unanimous in regard to the merits of the *Thesaurus*. We could almost apply to its spirit and style the untranslatable *χρὸς ἀρχαιοπινῆς* which Dionysius of Halicarnassus bestowed on those Attic authors who, despite the attacks of time, still preserved the freshness of their youth.

It matters but little whether one or two critics point with an envious hand to the three hackneyed desideranda which Olaus Borrichius found many years ago in that great work. All that the present state of our knowledge could afford has been used to improve it. The marginal notes of the manuscripts in the Imperial Library at Vienna, written in the hand of Stephanus himself, together with the additions of Walckenaer and Hemsterhuys, have been faithfully inserted; and yet this new edition, though claiming some affinity with the English, is far from resembling the ridiculous undertaking of Dr. Valpy, a vast reservoir, as Bishop Bloomfield calls it, which threatened by the length of its undigested dissertations to swell the work to at least fifty folio volumes.

Didot's edition has met the approval of the most celebrated philologists of Europe, and, we are glad to learn, is finding a ready sale. We have need of the work; no Scapula, no modern lexicon, can supply its place; and although we do not think of recommending it to tyros or college students, yet we feel constrained to say that it should be found at every professor's elbow, and should occupy the most conspicuous place among philological works in every library at all worthy of the name.